



El Dorado ACEs Collaborative

Creating Awareness and Building Resilience

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic events that have significant, long term impacts on children's developing brains resulting in poor health, social and mental health conditions.

In 2015, El Dorado ACEs collaborative was formed as a communitywide response to eliminate Adverse Childhood Experiences in our County, creating an awareness of the impacts of trauma and promoting prevention, early intervention and treatment for families.

Over 90 members representing agencies, community-based organizations and individuals, participate in the collaborative. Objectives are guided by the Steering Committee and achieved through Sector Work Groups that represent the communities we live in and areas of expertise: South Lake Tahoe, the Divide, Education, Health, Public Safety, Community, Social Services/Foster Care, and Behavioral Health. In the last year, our members have:

- Developed two-year action plans for all work groups to bring attention to the long term impacts of adverse childhood experiences and implement trauma informed strategies to support families.
- Created an awareness of the impact of trauma through educational presentations.
- Constructed El Dorado ACEs Connection website offering information on adverse childhood experiences and resources for trauma informed care.
- Mapped community assets to identify prevention, early intervention and treatment services.
- Incorporated trauma informed approaches in the El Dorado County Community Health Improvement (CHIP) Plan.

Together, we can eliminate ACEs in our County. Join us by:

- Learning more about ACEs:
 - Find your ACE and resiliency score: www.acestoohigh.com
 - Discover the impacts of ACEs: www.acesconnection.com.
 - Read the research: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/about.html
- Participating in local events <http://www.acesconnection.com/g/el-dorado-county-ca-aces-connection>:
 - Join our online community at El Dorado County ACEs Connection
 - Participate in quarterly ACEs Collaborative meetings
 - Participate in one or more of our workgroups
- Raising awareness about ACEs
 - Host a screening of Paper Tigers, a documentary about a high school in Washington that implemented a trauma-informed approach in response to the impact of ACEs on their student body: www.kpjrfilms.co/paper-tigers/

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Other information as necessary:

Background:

The Center for Disease Control, in partnership with Kaiser Permanente, lead one of the largest investigations of childhood abuse and neglect and later-life health and well-being, referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. Through this study, an ACES screening tool was developed to assess an individual's emotional, physical and sexual abuse; household challenges such as violence, substance abuse, mental illness, divorce and incarceration; emotional and physical neglect. Overall, the greater the number of ACEs a child experiences, the increased likelihood that they will experience costly, long-term health outcomes. The best intervention is to build resiliency in children through a trauma informed approach.

Vision:

Everyone thrives in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment

Mission:

To prevent and heal ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) by promoting ideas, policies, and practices that increase awareness, compassion, and resilience in El Dorado County

Values:

- **Collaboration:** We work together appreciating that collaboration pools wisdom.
- **Equity:** We strive to treat every person with fairness, dignity, and respect.
- **Wellness:** We embrace an expansive and holistic definition of wellness that encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual well-being.

Objectives/Purpose:

1. Grow and sustain a community collaborative that includes eight sector work groups with a focus on education and prevention of ACEs and promotion of resiliency building policies and practices for all of El Dorado County
2. Implement trauma-informed approaches and services (in each system) throughout El Dorado County
3. Monitor the progress through monthly steering committee meetings and quarterly collaborative meetings
4. Encourage and support efforts of organizations within the collaborative
5. Develop and implement a media and marketing plan to build capacity and community awareness
6. Advance public policies that further the vision of the El Dorado ACEs Collaborative